

“THE NATIVITY STORY” IS A GEM

The league’s own Kiera McCaffrey pre-viewed New Line Cinema’s upcoming film “The Nativity Story” and highly recommends it. Tracing the tale of Jesus’ birth from Zechariah learning that his wife will bear a son, John the Baptist, through the flight into Egypt and the Massacre of the Innocents, “The Nativity Story” is a moving and reverent look at the birth of our Lord.

Particularly well done is the focus on the difficult choice the compassionate Joseph has to make when he learns Mary is pregnant, and his determination to protect his wife and child once he learns the truth of Jesus’ conception. Viewers will also enjoy the focus on the bravery and devotion to the Lord that Mary (played by Keisha Castle-Hughes, who was nominated for an Academy Award for her performance in “Whale Rider”) shows in the face of judgment from her neighbors and the understandable reaction of her initially incredulous parents. Beautiful scenery and a moving score all add to the captivating effect.

The film received an MPAA rating of PG for some violent content. Small children may be frightened by scenes involving Herod’s cruelty and the violence committed by his soldiers. However, it is suitable for families and is sure to provoke thoughtful reflection in viewers of all ages.

“The Nativity Story” premiered at a charitable benefit held at the Vatican before 7,000 guests on November 26 and opens in the United States nationwide on December 1.